

Press Release

Thursday, Oct. 30, 2008

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#### Calumet Shreveport Fire Out, Minimal Damage

A thick black plume of smoke looked much worse than it was this morning at Calumet Shreveport Lubricants and Waxes, LLC. At approx. 7:45 a.m., Calumet contacted the Shreveport Fire Department that sour water tank #176 was on fire and requested support. The fire department responded with numerous units, evaluated the situation and pumped foam onto the fire to suppress it. The Shreveport police department closed portions of Midway and Jewella Avenue to traffic so that emergency crews would have easy access. Calumet employees were instructed to leave the plant for a short time so that they would not get in the way of fire and other emergency crews.

The Shreveport Fire Department is reporting two minor injuries to firefighters, but no other injuries were reported, either inside or outside the plant. No unit other than the sour water tank was damaged.

A sour crude unit was shut down as a safety precaution, but the plant continued and still continues to run at normal capacity.

The fire was fed by a thin layer of oil in the sour water tank that burned until it was suppressed by foam. The oil smoke is not a toxic compound and dissipated fairly quickly. All regulatory agencies were contacted as a matter of course and briefed on events.

Calumet safety officials will conduct a full scale after-action report to determine the cause of the fire, evaluate the response to it and work to prevent a similar event from happening again. Calumet holds regular internal safety briefings and training and works closely with the Shreveport Fire Department to be prepared for any contingency.

Because no one outside the plant was in any danger and no response of any kind was needed, the Dept of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness' First Call system was not activated. That phone system is available in case instructions about evacuations should ever need to be given.

We do not predict that anything will be updated today in terms of the cause of the blaze; that will likely take a couple of weeks. All employees have gone back to work and roads are being reopened.

Calumet is working to contact neighborhood groups to brief them on details of what happened and has been in contact as well with city and parish officials and State Representative Barbara Norton.

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